Development of defunct airports

*118. SHRI B.J. PANDA:

MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to engage private hands to develop defunct airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Centre has prepared a supportive regulatory framework to address the key concerns of private players in the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government has already started work for the development of such a defunct airport Jharsuguda in Orissa under the above plan; and

(f) if so, the details of progress made in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has not declared any of its airport as defunct Airport. Further, presently, there is no proposal for engaging private hands for development of non-operational Airports of AAI.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) and (f) Jharsuguda Airport is one of the non-operational airports. AAI has engaged M/s RITES, to carry out a feasibility study to consider operationalisation of this airport. Accordingly, a Master Plan has been prepared and land requirement of 815 acres has been projected to the State Government of Orissa under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Initiation of work is, *inter-alia*, subject to response of the State Government.

Decision of Gujarat Contract Labour Law

*119. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware about the State Government of Gujarat Contract Labour Board's decision taken in the year 2001 in the matter of General Motors who were authorized to employ contract labour with a condition that workers will be paid wages *i.e.* basic, DA and other allowances as well as other facilities such as uniform, shoes, socks, canteen, bonus, leave benefits, etc. similar to permanent workers; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the contractual workers at Mehsana, Ahmedabad, Ankleshwar and Vadodara Assets are not paid wages and other facilities as mentioned above in spite of clear-cut order of the Labour & Employment Department, Government of Gujarat, dated 16th July 2002?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) does not engage contract workers directly for its

activities. However, it awards certain categories of works/jobs to Contractors through Job/Service contracts. The contractors of ONGC are required to pay not less than minimum wages, as notified by the Regional Labour Commissioner (RLC), Ahmedabad, for the State of Gujarat. In addition to minimum wages and additional wages, the labourers deployed by contractors are provided coverage under Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Payments Act, 1952, Bonus under the payments of Bonus Act, 1965, Leave with wages, Kits and Liveries and Insurance for workmens' compensation liability.

Visit of domestic and foreign tourists in India

†*120. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of domestic and foreign tourists during January, 2007 to January, 2008 and January, 2008 to January, 2009, separately;

(b) whether the number of tourists has declined during 2008-09; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to encourage tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The number of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) during January 2007 to January 2008 and January 2008 to January 2009 were 5.67 million and 5.85 million respectively. The number of domestic tourist visits during January to December 2007 was 527 million. The data on domestic tourist visits for 2008 and January 2009 are not available.

Though the growth rate in FTAs in 2008 over 2007 was lower (5.6%) as compared to that of 14.3% in 2007 over 2006, the total number of FTAs in 2008 was 5.37 million which is higher than the FTAs of 5.08 million in 2007. The lower growth rate in 2008, particularly in November and December, may be due to various reasons including global financial meltdown and terrorist activities.

(c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. However, to supplement the efforts of the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations, and to encourage tourism, the Ministry of Tourism *inter-alia* takes the following steps:

- Development of tourism infrastructure at tourist sites with the cooperation of other Ministries/ Departments and State/ UT Governments;
- Focusing on growth of hotel infrastructure, particularly that for budget hotels;
- Enhancing connectivity through augmentation of air capacity and improving road infrastructure to major tourist attractions;
- Direct approach to the consumers through electronic and print media through the "Incredible India" Campaign;
- Production and distribution of publicity material;
- Direct co-operative marketing with the airlines, tour operators and wholesalers in overseas markets;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.